

# **The City of Ventura Congratulates 2010 Art Tales Winners!**

The City of Ventura is pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Art Tales creative writing contest. Short stories and poems, which were submitted in both adult and youth categories, were inspired by one of the five Municipal Art Collection works of art currently on exhibit in the E.P. Foster Library.

More than 80 entries from Ventura, Oxnard, Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore were judged by a committee of professionals: Elena Brokaw, Director of Parks/Recreation/Community Partnerships for the City of Ventura; Denise Sindelar, Manager of Parks/Recreation/Community Partnerships; Mary Stewart, Head Librarian for E.P. Foster Library; and Marsha De La O, writer. The judges evaluated the work on its creativity and were very impressed with the number of high quality submissions. The winners are:

## **Story – Adult**

- Donald Sommerfield First Place “Late Night Coffee”
- Sean Daly Second Place “You Stand like a fool Watching”
- Sharon Wilson Honorable Mention “Eulogy in a Rainbow”

## **Poem – Adult**

- Dominga Zambrano First Place “American Dreams”
- Maggie Westland Second Place “Hosanna”
- Howard Smith Honorable Mention “Gift of a Ball”

## **Story – Youth**

- Sofia Felino First Place “The Synesthete”
- Jocelyn Munoz Second Place “Carwash on the Avenue”
- Alejandra Contreras Honorable Mention “Tony’s Pizza”
- Lupita Perez Honorable Mention “Tony’s Pizza”
- Daniel Vargas Honorable Mention “Tony’s Pizza”

## **Poem – Youth**

- Chris Medrano First Place “Carwash on the Avenue”
- Misael Ponce Second Place “Large Ball –Fagan Canyon”
- Naythan A. Martinez Honorable Mention “Joad Family Applying for Relief”
- Matthew Hammond Honorable Mention “Sally Weber”
- Hanna Wishart Honorable Mention “Large Ball – Fagan Canyon”

The mayor will honor winning writers at a special ceremony at E.P. Foster Library in late April. All winners will receive a bound edition of the winning entries and first and second place winners will receive a cash prize.

The City of Ventura was pleased to partner with E.P. Foster Library in hosting this contest, which called for imaginative and inventive writers to examine a work of art and then write a short story or poem reflecting their unique interpretation,” said Denise Sindelar.

The Municipal Art Collection was envisioned in 1999 to make the artwork of leading local artists accessible to the community by displaying the collection in the public areas of City Hall and other municipal buildings. The display at E.P. Foster Library marks the third of many planned exhibits or loans to be sited outside City Hall.

The Municipal Art collection, on permanent exhibit in City Hall, continues to be an important attraction for both residents and visitors. Since its inception in 1999, the collection has grown to include 91 works by 70 artists, each of whom have made a significant contribution to the history of visual art in Ventura county – a main criterion of acquisition. The collection showcases the breadth and diversity of the county’s visual art community through the representation of multiple media, including sculpture, painting, photography, etching, and ceramics.

The Municipal Art Acquisition Program was established to document the history of visual art in Ventura through the annual purchase of important works of art created by area artists. The Municipal Art Acquisition Committee, a sub-committee of the Public Art commission, oversees the purchase of new artworks. The entire collection may be viewed online at [www.cityofventura.net/publicart](http://www.cityofventura.net/publicart).

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